

**PRESIDENT :** What has happened, Mr. Secretary?

**SECRETARY :** Under standing order 10, Sundays and other public holidays are to be excluded in the calculation. Therefore all Cut Motions on the Land Revenue Demand should have reached the office of the Secretary before 3 p. m. on Saturday. The Cut Motions referred to by the Honourable Member were received only after that time and hence not included in the printed list.

**MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN :** Sir, something like a riot is reported to have taken place in the Central Prison yesterday as a result of which one of the injured has been taken over to the General Hospital. I pray that the House be enlightened on that incident.

**PRESIDENT :** The matter has been anticipated and a statement has been prepared. It will be placed before the House by the Chief Secretary.

# STATEMENT RE: THE DISTURBANCES IN THE CENTRAL PRISON.

**MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR** (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is understood that a few days ago the authorities of the Central Prison detected some cases of smuggling into the Jail premises of contraband articles like beedies, tobacco, arecanuts and so on. Two convict warders had in their possession these articles which were discovered on successive days. It also came to light a couple of days ago that with the connivance of a warder and another convict warder, arecanuts, betels and other articles were concealed in their waist clothes and smuggled into the prison. When these instances were discovered, the warders were punished and some of the prisoners who were benefited by the smuggling appear to have made common cause with them and on Monday when a prisoners' parade took place as usual, they gathered together and began to demonstrate and shout slogans like *Inquilab Zindabad* (Long Live Revolution). In this demonstration some of the prisoners convicted of sedition and other cognate offences also took part.

As the situation was getting tense, the Superintendent of the Central Prison telephoned to the Police authorities who despatched a small force of 20 Armed Reserves. The Inspector General and the District Magistrate also proceeded to the Jail and the latter held an elaborate enquiry at which it was made clear that the demonstration had been premeditated.

The death of a convict who had been suffering from pleurisy and had been discharged from the hospital very recently was made the occasion for demonstration. The suggestion was made that the death was due to man-handling by some of the jail authorities. This was not established but in order to get at the truth, a case has been registered and the enquiry is proceeding.

After the advice of the District Magistrate to the prisoners, they took their morning kanji which they had earlier declined. The situation has become normal and the authorities are considering ways and

[Mr M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar.]

means to prevent a recurrence of illicit practices like smuggling of contraband goods and the participation by various classes of prisoners in acts of insubordination of disturbance.

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET—(contd.)

MR. KAINIKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanacherry cum Peermade*): Sir, it is with a sense of hesitation that I approach the budget before the House. I do not believe the hesitation is mine. It is rather sympathetic. I perceive a spirit of hesitation pervading the whole budget speech. This year's budget and the budget speech are conspicuously lacking in that contagious self-confidence so characteristic of the last two budgets. I am afraid that the Financial Secretary is haunted still by the ghost of the State Congress. He has told us that the Finances of the State was upset by the Political agitation, and the subversive activities form one of the main themes of the budget speech. I can easily understand how the Government had to spend an additional amount of Rs. 3 lakhs for maintenance of peace and order. I can also easily understand how the agitation has adversely affected the finances in general. But the revenue has fallen by Rs. 13 and a half lakhs. I too have been watching the State Congress closely and while admitting their capacity for doing mischief. I am not prepared to give them the credit for having upset our finances to the extent of Rs. 13½ lakhs. I have gone through that portion of the Financial Secretary's speech very carefully and I find that he has been able to relate the agitation even distantly only with two items. One is the Transport and the other is Excise. In the Transport their contribution is the destruction of one or two buses and the disturbances in the public roads for one or two weeks. In the case of Excise I believe the whole thing is an anachronism. The no-tax campaign and the Prohibition campaign were some of their postamenesty bluffs which were never carried out and I am sure they did not intend to carry out. There was civil disobedience only during the first two months of this year and at that time there was no prohibition. Then they disobeyed laws, disturbed peace, molested passengers cut down trees and attacked officers. But it will be untrue and unjust to say that the State Congress people did not drink. I believe that the effect of the agitation has been more on the Financial Secretary than on the finances. The effect has been not financial but psychological. There is a kind of nervousness on the part of the Government and as I said courage is lacking. Let us hope with the Financial Secretary that peace has come and come to stay.

Coming to the budget of this year I wish to make a few remarks on one or two separate items. The financial Secretary has hinted that a re-orientation of policy will take place in the Co-operative and Agricultural Departments, and you, Sir, have told us the broad lines in which such changes are to take place. Before we see the picture complete I am not in a position to give an opinion. But in the meanwhile Government can do one thing very useful. We have been told that the chief function of the Agricultural Department is research. I would add to that, propaganda. As for research we have had nothing and as